



## Idaho School Safety & Security Task Force Meeting Summary (6/12/2013)

Present:

Brian Armes, Principal, Bonneville S.D.	Guy Bliesner, Former Safety Coordinator, Bonneville S.D.	Larri Callicut, SDE Investigator
Anita Christenson, Principal' Nampa SD	Robert Feeley, Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS)	Susan Fletcher, ISBA / American Falls S.D. Trustee
Vicki Johnson, Federal Programs Director, Blackfoot S.D.	Bill Hatch, Division of Building Safety	Vaughn Killeen, Executive Director Idaho Sheriff's Association
John Robert, Idaho Emergency Manager's Association	Matt McCarter, SDE	Mike Munger, Security Manager, Boise S.D.
Steve Myers, Boise Police	Dale Nader, Idaho BHS	Heidi Novich Idaho BHS
John Overton, Meridian Police / Idaho Chiefs of Police Association	Gaylen Smyer, IASA, Superintendent- Cassia Joint SD	George Stevens, Boise Police
Steve Steiner, Idaho BHS	Todd Zucker, Vice Principal- Weiser S.D.	

The Idaho School Safety and Security Task Force was convened by the Superintendent of Public Instruction in partnership with the Governor's appointed lead for school safety, retired Idaho State Police Director Colonel Jerry Russell, in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shooting in Newton, CT. The focus and scope of the Task Force includes the following:

- To identify the critical infrastructure, resources and action steps (statewide plan) to create a culture of readiness to prevent and respond to crises in every school community in Idaho.
- To build capacity for local jurisdictions to effectively prevent and respond to their unique crises situations.
- To assure every student, parent and staff member feels safe in Idaho schools.

Core concerns and issues identified by the Task Force are summarized below:

- A wide variance in the level of attention and preparation for school safety and security issues in the school districts and public charter schools across the state exists.
- Valid and reliable data on the current status of school safety and security in schools across the state is not available.
- Ownership and responsibility for school safety and security at state and local levels has been nebulous and not well defined.
- The availability of Idaho specific school safety data, best practices information, training and assistance is disparate, unorganized and limited.
- The majority of districts in the state lack the resources (expertise, personnel and funding) to establish meaningful and sustainable school safety and security improvements.
- Idaho's current school safety and security resources and efforts are not coordinated and are scattered across multiple agencies (SDE, BHS, DBS, etc...).

### **Recommendations**

As a result of the identified issues, and the urgency to assure safe learning environments, the Idaho School Safety and Security Task Force has crafted the following recommendations to most effectively and efficiently address Idaho's school safety and security deficiencies in a sustainable, comprehensive manner. Superintendent Luna and Colonel Russell are in full support:

- Require, through legislation, school board trustees (or designee) meet, at a minimum, annually with local first responders (those most directly responsible for responding to school crises) to discuss the Common School Safety and Security Threat Assessment implementation, safety planning, training and exercises.
- Establish, through Executive Order\*, an Idaho Center for School Safety and Security (the Center), to be housed within the State Department of Education\*\*. The Center will serve as the single state resource responsible for advancing the preparedness of schools to prevent, mitigate and respond to crisis situations.

*\*An Executive Order was identified as the most efficient (time sensitive) mechanism to establish the Center. Due to the limitations of Executive Orders, legislation may be the most appropriate mechanism to establish the Center.*

*\*\*Idaho State University's Institute of Emergency Management was identified as an alternate host agency for the Center.*

- Core responsibilities of the Center include:
  - 1.) Implement Idaho's common School Safety / Security Threat Assessment\* in schools throughout the state; collect and analyze threat assessment results and report (aggregate) on the status and progress of school safety strengths and

weaknesses to the legislature, the Governor, the State Board of Education and other stakeholders. *\*The common School Safety / Security Threat Assessment Tool is established.*

2.) Build a repository for school safety research, best practices, resources, policy, standard operating procedures, guidelines and materials and disseminate to Idaho schools; establish school safety standards for Idaho schools.

3.) Provide training, technical assistance and guidance to schools and first responders responsible for school safety and security in local jurisdictions. Assist schools in crafting and implementing school safety plans based upon the results of the common School Safety / Security Threat Assessment.

4.) Leverage existing infrastructure, resources and activities to increase school safety (i.e. linkage between schools and county Emergency Operations Centers, engaging stakeholders and practitioners in trainings and exercises, etc...).

- In order to provide sufficient resources and oversight for the Center, the Executive Order / legislation should include:
  - 1.) An initial appropriation of \$1 million (salary, benefits, overhead, operating expenditures, state activities such as conferences, meetings and training, and subcontracts).
  - 2.) 1.0 FTE (initially), the Center will recruit and train school safety specialists (as independent contractors) to assist with assessment implementation, safety planning and training in local jurisdictions throughout the state.
  - 3.) Establish an oversight committee to inform and direct the activities and focus of the center. The oversight committee membership should consist of the following:
    1. Superintendent of Public instruction or designee
    2. Representative of Idaho's Executive Branch
    3. Representative from the House Education Committee
    4. Representative from the Senate Education Committee
    5. Director of the Idaho State Police or designee
    6. Director of Homeland Security or designee
    7. Administrator of the Division of Building Safety or designee
    8. Director of the Department of Health and Welfare or designee
    9. Representative from the Idaho Sheriff's Association
    10. Representative the Idaho Association of Chiefs of Police
    11. Representative from the Idaho Association of School Administrators

12. Representative from the Idaho School Boards Association
13. Representative from the Idaho Parent Teacher Association
14. Representative from the Idaho Education Association

### **Idaho School Safety Center Indicators of Success**

- Threat assessment tool implementation rate among schools / districts
- Trainings delivered throughout the state on topics of greatest deficiency and importance
- Safety planning progress among schools / districts
- Establishment of Idaho school safety standards
- Drills conducted in concert with schools and local first responders

### **Critical Considerations Regarding Trustees Authorizing School Staff to Carry Weapons**

The decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons on campus can have significant, unintended consequences and requires thorough discussion and preparation to determine if the benefits outweigh the risks. The Idaho Safe and Secure Schools Task Force has identified the following actions and decision points to be addressed prior to authorization of weapon carrying among school staff:

- Consultation with the district insurance carrier to determine applicable policy changes and associated costs.
- Identification of the rules of engagement (for what purposes is it appropriate to brandish the weapon?).
- Identification of enhanced training required of those authorized to carry weapons on campus (training should be ongoing, not a one-time event).
- Consultation with local law enforcement to inform the decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons.
- Consultation with parents to inform the decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons.
- Clarifications of expectations (through policy) of the actions of authorized school staff when in contact with law enforcement personnel.
- Identification of psychiatric screening measures to ensure the sound mental health of staff authorized to carry.
- Determination of requirements to ensure weapon security and retention (security and retention measures prevent unauthorized access and use of the weapon).
- District policy should specify which specific staff member(s) are authorized to carry weapons, and should identify the specific the weapon(s) to be carried. The amount, location and security of ammunition should also be addressed.

\*The decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons on school campus in Idaho rests with locally elected school boards per section 18-3302D(4)(f), Idaho Code. Absent extenuating circumstances, the Idaho Safe and Secure Schools Task Force does not recommend the authorization of school staff to carry weapons on campus for school safety / security purposes

**Presentation:** (Mike Munger, Boise School District & George Stevens, Boise Police Department)

**Topic:** Move / Hide / Fight training video for school staff response to active shooter incidents. Training video will be made available when finalized.

**Presentation:** (Brad Ford, Skyview High School Resource Officer, Nampa School District)

**Topic:** Emergency communication badges for staff; programmable to meet the unique health and safety needs of school staff. ([www.ekehau.com](http://www.ekehau.com) or [www.rapidemergencyresponse.com](http://www.rapidemergencyresponse.com))

**Prioritization of Common School Safety and Security Threat Assessment components-** these items will be provided to schools eager to begin the process as a first step prior to the implementation of the complete tool.

**Update:** (Bill Hatch, Division of Building Safety) the Idaho Industrial Commission is seeking to remove the funding mechanism for DBS school safety inspections. Mr. Hatch will keep the group apprised of developments.

**Update:** (Heidi Novich, Bureau of Homeland Security) the Department of Homeland Security (federal) is pursuing Idaho districts to participate in the implementation of a federally identified threat assessment tool.

**Update:** (Steve Steiner, Bureau of Homeland Security) BHS and SDE are implementing a pilot project to connect three rural schools in Payette, St. Marie's and Clark County to local Emergency Operations Centers. The Payette site visit and implementation will occur in July. The others will occur in August.

**Next Meeting:** to be determined